

The Student's Pen



VOL. IV

NO. 4

PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Number



STUDENT'S PEN STAFF

"The Pen is mightier than the Sword"

The Student's Pen

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STAFF

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SALUTATORY

Overcoming Obstacles

Honorable Mayor, Members of the School Committee, Teachers, Parents and Friends:

We, the class of 1919, cordially welcome you this evening to our graduation exercises. Tonight we have reached the goal toward which we have been striving for four, long, yet seemingly short years. We must now enter upon the greater field of life which lies stretched out before us; we must cast away our high school privileges and pleasures, only to hold them in the firm grasp of our memories, and assume the greater responsibilities which await us as we leave the threshold of high school so dear to us. The time is now at hand when it is necessary for us, as a class, to part. We go forth as students in the greatest school of life. May the lessons we have learned here prepare us to meet worldly battles face to face and to overcome all obstacles which may beset us on our road to success.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the School Committee:

We hope that our graduation exercises will prove to you that your untiring efforts in our behalf have not been in vain. To you we return our sincere thanks for your hearty and continued interest in our welfare.

Dear Teachers:

We are very grateful to you for the ever-ready help and encouragement you have given us during our four years of study here. We appreciate the value of the training we have received under your supervision. Because of your instructions, we know that we are wiser and better prepared to fight the battles which life has in store for us.

Parents and Friends:

To you we owe our greatest debt of gratitude for you have made it possible for us to secure a high school education. Because of your love for us and your eagerness for our advancement, we have received something no one can take away from us. While we have been pursuing our studies here we have met with difficulties which may have seemed great to us. Through your encouragement we have overcome them. Now we shall meet greater ones. May our success and our efforts to surmount these obstacles prove to you that we were worthy of your solicitation.

The boy or the girl who would attain success must be prepared for the work of life from the outset by battling bravely against the obstacles that would bar progress. No individual can develop into the largest manhood or womanhood without the education that comes from struggling to overcome difficulties. Every upward step taken by the race, as a whole, has been over gigantic obstacles and by the most persistent endeavor, in spite of pain and sorrow. The struggle of the individual is but a miniature of the struggle of humanity. The powers of darkness against light, of ignorance against knowledge, are ever at work to discourage the individual. But the struggle is as necessary as it is inevitable for the development of our strength. It is not helps, but obstacles; not facilities, but difficulties, that make strong men and women.

"For noble souls, through dust and heat
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger."

Again we bid you a hearty welcome and thank you for the interest you display by your presence here this evening.

Edna Patricia Volin

VALEDICTORY

Duty to Country

When we go forth tonight as graduates of this school, we go as men and women to play our part in the life of the nation, to assume the responsibilities of citizenship and to perform our duty to our country.

The doing of one's duty begins in the home. Without doubt it is true that the man who performs his duties to his family, who is not wrapt up heart and soul in his own selfish desires, is the one who gradually widens his circle of activities beyond his family to his community and state, and it is he who ultimately becomes the true patriot. By doing all in his power to uphold the institutions of the community in which he lives and to advance its interests, he is performing part of his duty. But too often his chief aim and ambition is the prosperity of the state which he separates as a little world of its own from the rest of the nation, and his chief passion is working for the supremacy of the commonwealth, although the interests and the welfare of the state should be subordinated to those of the country.

On the other hand, he who devotes all his time and efforts to working for his country and who neglects his own immediate cares and responsibilities which demand equal attention, does not understand the true principles of duty. His is a selfish motive—love of praise, love of renown,—not the incentive which urges every true citizen,—love of country. He supports his country in public office and service merely as a means of satisfying his own interests and ambitions, and when he has attained his purpose, he disregards the helper without whose aid his success would have been impossible.

Then, too, duty demands that every American citizen should stand by his country, whether or not he considers its attitude proper and right. But to do so without fear, his desire should be to make it right, to see that it commits no acts of injustice toward individuals or countries, and that its motives are without question free from selfishness and avarice.

Then there will be no qualms of conscience to restrain him from doing what his country bids, and then, and then only will he willingly and proudly perform his duty, knowing that there is no country on earth so deserving of his loyalty and fidelity.

Honorable Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman and Members of the School Committee:

For the past four years, we, the members of the class of 1919 have enjoyed the privileges of a high school education. To you, as the officials of the City of Pittsfield, we wish to express our deepest appreciation for the interest you have taken in our class, and as far as lies within our power, we will strive to repay by our future good work the debt of gratitude due to you.

Mr. Principal and Dear Teachers:

Words cannot adequately express our feeling of indebtedness to you for the consideration and patience and your untiring efforts in our behalf. We realize that we have often tried your powers of endurance, that our misdeemeanors have often vexed you, and that our best efforts have not always gratified your wishes. But, in parting, we can at least wish you happiness in life and many more successful years of teaching.

Dear Parents and Friends:

We can never repay you for the sacrifices you have made to give us the benefit of high school training and the loving interest you have manifested in every step of our progress. What we have attained has been only through your constant encouragement, and in the coming years, to show our appreciation of your help, we shall do our best to make life pleasant and enjoyable, and always remember that our start in life was due largely to your efforts to give us the best.

Undergraduates:

To you, as the next Senior Class, the lower classes will look for a model. As we have tried, so you, too, must try to set for them a good example. We have by no means been a perfect class. Like every other Senior Class that has left this school, we have our faults and defects. Therefore, it is our most earnest wish that you imitate our good points, improve and profit by our mistakes, strive to uphold above everything the principles and ideals of the Pittsfield High School and keep in your hearts a warm spot for the friends you have made in the class of 1919.

Dear Classmates:

Tonight, as we stand assembled for the last time as the class of 1919, the overwhelming realization comes to us that we have but a few more moments together. Our years in the Pittsfield High School, as we look back upon them, seem dearer to us than ever, and we know now as never before that they are the happiest and most carefree years that we shall ever live. For now the parting of the ways has come. We go forth, each to his own calling, to meet the responsibilities of life, not as a class, but as individuals. Henceforth we shall have no loving hands to guide us, we must fight our own battles. But let the knowledge and the advice which we have acquired here serve us well in the years to come. Let us treasure in our hearts the beloved spots associated with our school life and the many friends we have made here, and, as time goes on, may pleasant memories bring us back to the spot, where, with regrets for the past and with good wishes for the future, we now bid farewell. In parting, I wish to you all the best of success, and may God grant to you peace and prosperity in your future life.

Dorothy E. Koepke

The Prophecy

Mr. Toastmaster and Classmates:

It may be a great surprise to you to know that in my travels through foreign countries, four years ago, I stopped in Egypt where I witnessed the performance of an Egyptian enchantress. So interested did I become in her actions, particularly in her powers of prophecy, that I remained after the performance to interview her. I asked her if she could instill in me the power of prophecy. In response, she handed me this little paper containing a wonderful powder. For this powder, I paid an exorbitant sum. Her directions were, "When you wish to have the power to tell the future, dissolve this powder in a little water and drink it. The powers of a prophet will then be instilled in you."

Friends, I am now about to take this powder, in order to prophesy the future of the class. Will somebody please blindfold me with this handkerchief? It is now necessary that you remain perfectly quiet while the spirits approach.

Hush! Let us wander slowly into a massive brick building. What! There, behind some iron bars and caged in, is one of our own number. No, classmates, this building is *not* a prison. It is the Pittsfield National Bank, and the person behind the bars is the president of the bank—Charles Allen.

We are suddenly transferred to Room 9, of the Pittsfield High School. Let us hear the recitation of the civics class. This class is taught by Mrs. Bennet's successor—Eleanor Clark. Other teachers in this famous school are the Misses Eagen, Meehan and MacWhinnie, all recently graduated from a normal school. Suddenly we hear footsteps and into the room walks the principal. He proceeds to give a speech on "Nickle Collections." This principal is—Richard Gaul.

We are now in the Hippodrome Theatre, witnessing the performance of a wonderful musical comedy. This comedy appears under the title of "John Farrell's Perfect Thirty-six Chorus." The leading lady is Elizabeth Barry, who is assisted by two solo dancers of great repute—Sarah Chain and Kathrynne Merrill. Other members of the great chorus are the Misses Coakley Crosier, Doran, McNeil and Aronstein.

Ssshhh! There appears slowly before me now the spirit of one of the most popular of our classmates. It mounts a platform and begins to speak. Aha! It is Berkshire's most famous "Silver Toned Orator," the reincarnation of Daniel Webster. Yes! It is—John Alberts.

Again! There appears a street parade of women. It is the "Suffrage League of Pittsfield." The organizer is—Catherine Flynn. Her plea of 'Votes for Women' has been recognized throughout Massachusetts. Other members of the League are the Misses Nilan, O'Brien, Ennis, and Thurston.

Two spirits now approach! They are those of farmers. These farmers have skillfully united two kinds of soil which will produce square peas instead of the customary round ones. They claim that the eating of peas will now be a greater pleasure since they cannot roll off your knife like the former ones. These great discoverers are Hugh Barron and Henry Jackson.

Let us now read the catalogue from the "Dalton Seminary for Young Women." The proprietress is Edna Volin, assisted by Dorothy Koepke, teacher of Latin. In the list of teachers, I see the name of a brilliant young professor—George Hoag.

The head of the government of Pittsfield, otherwise called the Mayor, is Frank Shields.

The great social leaders of the 'Four Hundred' of Pittsfield are—Francesca Wainwright and Madeline Shipton.

A new book entitled "How to Laugh in One Complete Octave," has just been completed by Elizabeth Enright.

A well known missionary has just left Pittsfield for Africa. He is known as the Reverend Herbert Nelson.

There comes to my ears the sweet strains of music. This wonderful music is created by Grace May, great violinist now touring the country accompanied by Yvonne Hebert, the great pianist. They are far famed for their musical talent.

Another speaker appears. This speaker has been travelling around the world, explaining to the younger generation, the whys and wherefores of the "League of Nations." Hear him, O Ye Classmates, for it is—Simon Skoletsky.

Slam! Bang! A home run is made by the manager and second baseman of the "Hillies"—"Dill" Garborino.

Wait. Brrrrr! Above our heads in an aeroplane flies the adventurer who beat Terry Stalker in a race to the North Pole—Earl Mackie. His skilled navigator was—Edward O'Brien.

There appears now another spirit that of a great lumber merchant. His business is—selling toothpicks. It is Bernard Clug.

Classmates, I am glad to say that Berkshire's Congressman is now a woman—Estelle Kevlin by name.

Hush, the spirits are fading and refuse to answer me further. If, however, those who have not been mentioned, will call at my office at 91,556 North Street after the First of July, I will be present and glad to tell your future at the rate of five dollars per question.

Cortlandt Merrill, '19

Class Statistics

The senior class is now graduating. Our favorite study is the study period and our favorite sport is a mixture of swimming, athletics, dancing (not aesthetic) and lessons. We make sport of our lessons all right. John Albert, a very distinguished gentleman and fencer, is the most popular fellow of the class. If we didn't own up to this fact he would challenge us to a duel and kill us. Then it wouldn't have been any use to graduate. Grace May, the girl who has never been without a smile has the vote as the most popular girl. Yvonne Hebert is voted on as the prettiest girl, while Bernard Clug the trigonometry shark, has the vote as the handsomest fellow.

The class has been noted for its good habits during the four years. Each of the girls were tardy about once a day. They got to dances only four times a week and smoke a package of violet-scented cigarettes a day. They were sent to the office only eight times a week. Of course the boys are a little worse for two thirds smoke and drink while the other third chew gum. This class is the best that ever graduated, being the most modest and having the highest efficiency in lessons, attendance and deportment.

The class is a very tall one. The total height being seventy-five thousand sixteen inches. Hugh Baron, nicknamed Baron Bean, makes up much of this height for he has the honor of being the tallest. Mabelle Geneva Crosier is the smallest piece of humanity. This class would be a mile high by taking an inch to the foot, but as it is not it is only one twelfth of a mile high.

The average size of the girls' shoe is twelve and the boys five and one half. The boys' hats average about seven and one half. Such a large head shows that the boys are very brainy. The average girls' heads are about size six. These same heads (the boys' and girls') are made up of light heads, black heads, white heads, brown heads, no fat heads and one red head, otherwise called strawberry blonde. The combined number of hairs are sixty-five million billion. Since most of the heads are black, one would think that the mixture would turn out black, but as one strawberry blonde is such pure red the mixture turns out auburn. This is the prettiest hair. It is also very useful, because it is rumored that one can light his cigarette on it.

I am now to discuss a very weighty subject. The first part is in regard to all the parts of the body (of one person) weighed together. Then since all the parts of one person makes up only one part of the class, then there will be many of these parts to make up the weight of the whole class. Then by logarithms the whole weight of the class is equal to the weight of four elephants the size of Jumbo in Barnum's Circus.

Discussion of age has started very recently. The young men of former times did not need to wonder at the age of a certain young lady. They could tell by looking at her. It is very hard at the present time to tell the age of

a young lady by her looks. Since I needed to know the age of every girl in our class, I had questionnaires filled out. Adding a few years to each questionnaire I can now give a fair estimate of the number of years that the class makes. It is thirteen hundred years. Now this is a much greater age than Methuselah ever attained because in union there is age. Cortlandt Merrill, the father of the class, is the oldest fellow. Madeline Shipton, the mother of the class, is the oldest girl. Jennie Chesney and Richard Gaul are the youngest girl and boy respectively. This family is the pride of the Class. Richard is a bright Latin student, so bright that Mamma Shipton calls him son.

Herbert Nelson '19

History of the Class of 1919

In September 1915, the class of 1919 started on its glorious high school career. A brilliant collection of freshmen presented themselves in the auditorium, entering upon a higher *scope* of learning.

The ordinary "greenness" always associated with "freshies" was noticeably lacking in our class. During the first trying days of our high school life, our superior intellect was of great benefit, enabling us to become firmly established on the path which led to our present height.

Preceding classes have praised themselves to a great extent, but we, in our humble modesty, can honestly say, had the classes that have gone before, known of the merits of the class of 1919, they would have been silent concerning their own wonderful achievements.

Despite the fine qualities of our group, however, we passed unrecognized the first and second years.

We entered our third year as sophisticated Juniors. At the organization of our class, the officers elected were, Frank Shields, President; John Farrell, Vice-President; Richard Gaul, Treasurer; and Marion Sheridan, Secretary. However, owing to the pressure of outside business, our vice-president and treasurer resigned. Dorothy Koepke was elected vice-president and Estelle Kevlin was elected treasurer.

It was in our Junior Class meetings that the undiscovered orators received recognition. What would have been the jealousy of Mark Anthony, had he heard the orations of John Farrell and Dick Gaul!!!!

At one of these class meetings a committee was appointed to make arrangements for the "Junior Prom", which was held at the Masonic Temple and which was somewhat of a success.

The forepart of our Senior year was passed in study rather than in social duties. The president, the treasurer, and the secretary were re-elected. Ethel Zander was elected vice-president.

On January 25th, the class held a sleighride to Lee, an affair which proved to be very enjoyable.

Our next activity was at the participation of the graduation exercises of the February class, at which we presented a most distinguished appearance.

The senior dance was arranged and was held Friday evening, May 23rd at the Masonic Temple. A good time was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Senior Play was presented in the High School auditorium on Friday, June 6th. With so fine a cast, we could not fail to realize success in this effort.

Following the play, several lively class meetings were held, the purpose of which is well known. Here again stepped into prominence the previously mentioned speakers, with Cortland Merrill close at their heels. Even the weaker sex were moved to respond to the class's need.

Of course, in the history of our class, something must be said of our athletes. We have a few who have nobly supported their Pittsfield High, naturally, John Albert has always been interested in athletics.

The class decided to finish their high school days with "Senior week", the events of the grand finale being a picnic at the Boat Club on Tuesday, June 24th, the banquet at the Maplewood, Wednesday evening, June 25th, graduation on Thursday, and the "Prom" on Friday.

With the graduation of our class on the evening of June 26th, the Pittsfield High School will lose *the great class of 1919*.

Tune of Auld Lang Syne

1

Our high school days are nearly o'er they're drawing to a close
We'll soon depart o'er life's long path, through many fields we'll roam,
And some perhaps will pass away and some will honor gain
So let's sing this parting song tonight for the sake of Auld Lang Syne.

2

Dear P.H.S. we'll ne'er forget the days we spent with you
And we'll not forget the things we learned when we studied under you
And now we are leaving these old halls and we bid you fond adieu;
So we sing this farewell song tonight in memory of you.

Submitted by James Bradley, P.H.S. '19

Last Will and Testament of the Class of 1919, A.D., Pittsfield High School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

I, Florence D. Levinson, of the City of Pittsfield, County of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts, being in all respects quite sane and aware of the pitfalls in life, and being delegated by the June Class of 1919 of the Pittsfield High School to bequeath and bestow all its earthly possessions, do hereby declare the forthcoming to be the Last Will and Testament of the said June Class of 1919, in the form and manner prescribed by legal procedure, to wit:

First:—To all the Senior, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes still to come: the High School Building and all therein contained—together with the grass, shrubs, walks, etc., contingent thereto—and our new piano? and building? when it comes.

Second:—To the faculty and Mr. Hulsman, we leave our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the help they have given us, also a host of such dutiful industrious and brilliant students as the June Class is composed of.

Third:—To the Seniors especially, we leave the care of the incoming Freshmen. They should not be harsh with them as infants are not responsible for their actions. To them, also the most important offices in the school organizations and of the *Student's Pen*, which we, the passing class, have so ably fulfilled.

Fourth:—To the Juniors, we leave the positions on the various teams. May they preserve the good standing we have always kept up.

Fifth:—To the Sophomores we leave the care of the membership of all the school organizations. Let them always have 100% membership in all the clubs.

Sixth:—To the Freshmen we leave *absolute* possession of anything they may find in any departing Senior's desk.

Seventh:—To the school in general we leave the care of all the banners we have won, also the care and preservation of the honor, glory, and reputation of Pittsfield High.

Eighth:—With due honor to all past traditions of the school, the Commercial graduates, bestow and bequeath, to their janitor, an organ, situated in Room 10, of said graduates' building, with this proviso: That in heating the building next winter, he shall end said organ's long-suffering agonies.

Nine:—To pupils living in the west of this city, we leave the use of the Lake Avenue car, as being the best and quickest? means of transportation to school.

To Miss Flynn, we leave the care of the library with all the books. May we soon get more.

To Miss Converse, we leave the care of all the coming plays at Pittsfield High. May they be many and successful ones.

To Mr. Ford, the grand old man, we leave the care of the new gym and swimming tank (of our new school) and all the championship teams that he will turn out.

To Mr. Smith, we leave the orchestras and Glee Clubs that are to come. May they grow and prosper.

To Mr. Carey and Mr. Goodwin, we leave the care of the coming graduating classes. May they all be as good as we were.

To the commercial students the use of Second Street. May they come and go as quickly as did we.

To Messrs. Leonard and Hewitt the positions of executors of this will, since these gentlemen, being eminent scientists, make excellent executioners. (Sufficient students, I believe, can be found to attest to this.)

To the faculty, the carrying out of the above will, wherever they find it possible to do so.

In Witness Whereof: I have hereby set my hand and seal, this 25th day of June, 1919.

Florence Dorothy Levinson,

Attorney at Law and Notary Public.

The Senior Play

The Senior Class of P.H.S. presented on June 6, 1919, a play called "Tommy's Wife." It was a success, as all other plays have been.

The cast was excellently chosen, and the players showed great ability. Cortland Merrill, as Thomas Pittman Carrothers, a young artist, showed much talent. His efforts to find a market for his pictures were very amusing and the audience, appreciating this fact, applauded often. Miss Edna Volin, as "Tommy's" sister, who acted for a time as his wife, played exceptionally well. Bernard Clug, as Dick Grannis, was in love with Rose, and he won his lady fair after an exciting courtship. "The upstairs neighbor," a very pretty dramatic student was portrayed by Miss Elizabeth Barry, as Patty Campbell. Miss Francesca Wainwright, as the haughty society lady, Mrs. De Yorburgh Smythe, made a hit, and Miss Grace May as Mrs. Smith's daughter, Sylvia, provoked peals of laughter with her inquisitive ways. John Albert, who played the part of Pierre de Bouton, an impetuous fencing master, certainly did justice to his part.

George Hoag, James Bradley, Stanley Williams, and Albert Lundberg cleverly executed a fencing drill, under the direction of John Albert.

The Misses Beatrice Nilan, Marion Sheridan, Louise Palmer, Helen Thurston, and Gertrude Eagen, as the high and mighty art inspectors, who advised Tommy to "throw them all away" caused much merriment to the audience.

The Misses Mabelle Crosier, Anna Aronstein, Myla Doran, Helen Coakley, Marion Meehan and Margaret McNeil carried out a dance of Spring very prettily.

A solo dance "The Spirit of Spring" as Miss Kathryn Merrill interpreted it, was very well rendered.

The "Spanish Dance," by Miss Sara Chain, was well received by the audience.

Miss Rose Converse, as in former years, coached the players and did her work very excellently. At the close of the performance a large bouquet of American Beauty roses was presented to Miss Converse by Frank Shields, the president of the class.

The staff consisted of Charles Allen, business manager; Hugh Barron, assistant manager; Richard Mitchell, stage manager; Misses Mabel Vickery, Madeline Shipton, Edward O'Brien, and Herbert Nelson ably assisted the manager. John Farrell was head usher. Home-made candy was sold between the acts by girls of the class.

Young Men's Debating Club

When school re-opens, our club will be a member of the Berkshire County Debating League. Searles High School has already joined and Drury probably will by the time we pupils once more are filling the seats of P. H. S.

This was our goal. For many weeks have we struggled and argued, always looking forward to the time when we would be fit for formal debating. That time has come. When school opens in the Fall, Mr. Burke will round into shape and put the finishing touches on an already good debating club.

Then you will know for sure that your P. H. S. has a debating society. We have sat in Room 1 with all the doors closed and our speeches hushed lest we disturb the peace and quiet that always prevails in this school. Now we will step forth and the auditoriums of Drury, Searles, and Pittsfield High Schools will ring with our flowery speeches.

The club owes its success to one man, Frank Burke. We came here a crowd of rookies at the debating game and now,—well, just wait until Fall.

The club has had its trials and tribulations. It has had its little touch of Bolshevism and anarchy, but it weathered the storm, thanks to its director, and is now running like a clock.

The club will lose a number of its best men by graduation and it regrets this, but if they strive in life as they have in our club, there can be but one result, "Success."

Henry Barber, Secretary

The Junior Prom

The Junior Prom is to be held Friday evening from 8 to 1 o'clock. Now is the chance to show some of that school spirit which our famous orators have nobly shaken in its sleep. Go to the Junior Prom, advertise the school, sell tickets, anything to help. Show the Juniors that the whole school is behind them from the Principal down to the Freshmen.

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